

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURE 1 is a partial cross section of a shank portion of a stage 1 bucket case
[[n]] in accordance with the invention;

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

Turning to Figures 2-5, the core 38 has a generally "pants-leg" shape with a solid upper body portion 40 and a pair of radially inwardly extending co-planar legs 42 and 44 in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention. A pair of stabilizing pegs or printouts 46, 48 extend axially from opposite sides of the core while an elongated radially extending slot 54 separates the pants-leg portions 42 and 44. Notice that the core is curved in its solid upper portion so as to provide convex and concave surfaces (50, 52), respectively.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

It will be appreciated that in the casting process, the reinforcing pegs or printouts 46, 48 will be supported within aligned holes in the shell die, thus forming holes 30, 32 in the fore and aft walls of the shank portion of the cast bucket. At the same time, the slot ~~50~~ 54 will create the center partition 24.